

Coast Guard stops suspected drug boat carrying \$54.5 million in cocaine off Puerto Rico



SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – Coast Guard Cutter Richard Dixon's crew interdicted a suspected drug smuggling vessel approximately 50 miles south of Puerto Rico, Friday, with about 7,250 pounds of cocaine on board worth approximately \$54.5 million.

"This interdiction shows what ready crews and strong interagency partnerships can achieve in the maritime domain," said Coast Guard Southeast District Commander Adm. Adam Chamie. "The Richard Dixon crew, Air Station Miami and our

Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations partners stopped more than 7,000 pounds of cocaine before it could reach our communities, and we will keep taking the fight to the criminal networks that threaten our region.”

The five people on the vessel are detained pending further investigation. The vessel was destroyed as it posed a hazard to navigation.

“An outstanding team effort thanks to seamless coordination with Coast Guard and CBP air assets, cutter Richard Dixon was in the right place at the right time to stop a major shipment.” said Lt. Cmdr. Michael D. Torgesen, Coast Guard Cutter Richard Dixon commanding officer. “I’m constantly humbled by my crew’s dedication and am proud to serve alongside them as we strike a direct blow against transnational smuggling operations and protect the nation’s maritime borders in the Caribbean.”

The Coast Guard is the United States’ lead federal agency for maritime drug interdiction. We are part of the Department of Homeland Security team protecting our nation and are at all times a military service and part of the joint force defending it.

From U.S. Coast Guard Southeast District, Aug. 27. 2026